

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
From: Lacapra, Veronique C.
Sent: Tue 4/1/2014 7:00:37 PM
Subject: RE: Request for comment

Thank you for getting back to me Curtis.

You've probably seen it, but our story is here (I did my own, hopefully accurate, "translations" of highlights from the ORD memo):

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/epa-analysis-neighbors-could-be-risk-if-landfill-fire-reaches-radioactive-waste-bridgeton>

Please let me know if you see any factual errors.

Also, I notice that the EPA R7 newsletter about the ORD memo says the following: "Based upon current data submitted to the State by the PRPs EPA does not expect the SSE to come into contact with the RIM." What data does that statement refer to?

Isn't it true that we really don't know the specific nature of the (non-radioactive) materials in the north quarry of the Bridgeton Landfill, or in OU-1 of the West Lake Landfill? And without knowing that, isn't it impossible to know how susceptible those materials are to a subsurface fire -- or to sudden cave-ins, which could allow oxygen to reach the underground reaction, turning it into an above-ground (flaming) fire?

At the top of page 27 of [this report](#), landfill fire expert Todd Thalhamer refers to the material in the north quarry as "an unknown waste mass."

Thank you,

Veronique

Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.

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From: Carey, Curtis [mailto:Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 8:00 AM

To: Lacapra, Veronique C.

Subject: RE: Request for comment

Veronique,

My apologies for the delay last evening. After our West Lake team has a chance to interpret the findings in our Office of Research and Development memorandum we'll provide additional details. Having said that, getting the ORD memorandum out to the public in its entirety last night was important to EPA, and to me. The translation part is our next immediate step.

Best,

Curtis Carey

Director, Office of Communications

EPA Region 7

From: Lacapra, Veronique C. [mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 3:16 PM

To: Carey, Curtis; Whitley, Christopher

Subject: Request for comment

Importance: High

Hello,

Is anyone available to comment on this EPA memo:

http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-etsc-observationsonemsireport.pdf

I read EPA ORD saying that if an underground fire were to reach (or develop independently) in the area of radioactive waste (1) it would increase exposure to airborne contaminants including radon, and (2) would increase the production of liquids in the landfill ("leachate"), which could move radioactive material and other contaminants including radon into groundwater, and from there, into surrounding neighborhoods.

It also says that a high temperature underground fire in the area of radioactive waste would damage a cap like the one proposed in EPA's 2008 ROD.

I'd love a comment on tape, but I'll take a written statement. If I'm away from my desk when you call, please leave me a message and I'll call you back as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Veronique

Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.

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